

XXI. *New Coleoptera from Australia and Tasmania, in the Collection of the British Museum.* By CHAS. O. WATERHOUSE.

[Read July 3rd, 1878.]

THE British Museum Collection has lately received some additions from Tasmania, which have led me to examine some groups of Lamellicorns and Heteromera with a view to their determination. Some interesting new genera and new species have thus been brought to light, of which I here append descriptions.

RUTELIDÆ.

SAULOSTOMUS, gen. nov.

Mentum narrowed at the insertion of the palpi, with the anterior margin truncate. Labrum with the margin gently arcuate and not produced in the middle. Tarsi rather short and robust, the first four joints subequal, scarcely as long as broad, the first joint a little the longest. Claws simple. Antennæ 10-jointed. Elytra with a membranous border.

Closely allied to *Schizognathus*, but without the mesial production to the mentum and labrum. It differs from *Amblyterus* in having short tarsi with simple claws. *Schizognathus* and the other genera of *Brachysterninæ* have a mesial projection to the labrum, the absence, therefore, of this would seem to exclude the present insect from this subfamily. There is, however, no other place for it, and it must be regarded as a slightly aberrant form. The presence of the membranous border to the elytra exclude it from the true *Rutelidæ*, and the 10-jointed antennæ from the *Anomalinæ*.

Saulostomus villosus, sp. n.

Piceus, nitidus, fulvo-pubescent; corpore subtus pedibusque flavo-testaceis; thorace transverso, æneo-tincto,

laxe sat fortiter punctato; elytris brevibus, quadratis, striis nonnullis geminatis sat fortiter impressis, interstitiis irregulariter punctato-rugosis.

Long. $6\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Clypeus pitchy-yellow, rather thickly and distinctly punctured, quadrangular, a little transverse, the margins reflexed, finely margined with brown. Thorax one-third broader than long, convex, shining, clothed with long hair, not very thickly but rather strongly punctured, the sides gently rounded, the base sinuate on each side. Scutellum with a few punctures. Elytra with four pairs of striæ, those at the sides rather obsolete, the surface of the interstices very uneven. The under side of the insect is clothed with long, thick pubescence. The points of the teeth on the anterior tibiæ and the spines on the legs are pitchy.

Hab.—Tasmania; Melbourne.

ИОМОТРОПУС, gen. nov.

Characters of *Schizognathus*, but with the clypeus concave, deflexed and entirely rounded on the three free sides. Antennal club composed of three very long lamellæ. Labrum very short and transverse, with a small but prominent projection in the middle. Mentum narrowed in front of the insertion of the palpi and emarginate in middle of the anterior margin. Tarsi short and stout. Thorax with sides and base margined.

The principal character here is the emargination of the margin of the mentum. In this respect there is an approach to *Amblyterus*, but that has slender tarsi, &c. The elytra do not appear to have any membranous border; it should, therefore, be placed at the commencement of the *Adoretinæ*, according to Lacordaire's arrangement; but, as in all other respects, in the general form, in the form of the palpi, it agrees better with the *Brachysterninæ*, I prefer placing it at the end of that family.

Amblochilus, Blanch., is placed with doubt by Lacordaire at the end of the *Brachysterninæ*, the difficulties being that Blanchard says nothing about the labrum, and states that the antennæ are 9-jointed. The labrum is transverse, with a small mesial tooth-like projection. The antennæ appear to me to have only 9 joints; the 7th joint is slightly indicated, but is not, I think,

separate from the 6th. It appears to me to be correctly placed as Lacordaire has it, and is closely allied to *Homotropus*, above described, agreeing with this also in having no membranous border to the elytra. It is the internal claw that is the more slender, not the external, as stated by Blanchard.

Homotropus luridipennis, sp. n.

Niger, nitidus, breviter oblongus; clypeo rotundato, creberrime subtiliter ruguloso; fronte irregulariter punctulatâ; thorace longitudine $\frac{2}{3}$ latiori, convexo, nitido, laxè punctulato, lateribus sat rotundatis, marginatis, basi utrinque leviter sinuato, marginato; scutello utrinque punctato; elytris luridis thorace vix latioribus, latitudine haud longioribus, lineis nonnullis parum elevatis, interstitiis crebre fortiter rugoso-punctatis; antennis pallide piceis; pedibus piceis; corpore subtus longe piloso.

Long. $5\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

This insect forcibly reminds one of some of the smaller *Macrophyllæ* among the *Melolonthidæ*.

The elytra are very rugose; each elytron has several well-marked channels, those on the dorsal region being in pairs with a narrow ridge between them; the more elevated parts as well as the extreme margin are brown. The clypeus has a slight notch, or emargination on each side.

Hab.—Australia (Argent).

MESYSTÆCHUS, gen. nov.

Mandibles simple, straight on the inner edge, rounded on the outer, concave above. Labrum free, slightly transverse, rounded in front, beset with bristle-like hairs. Mentum elongate ovate, narrowed at the apex, thickly beset with long stiff hair; palpi short, the apical joint narrowed towards the apex. Clypeus entirely rounded in front, margined. Antennæ 10-jointed, the 6th and 7th transverse, the 8th, 9th and 10th forming a long, stout, slightly-arched club. Tarsi rather long and slender; the claws subequal, the inner one a trifle shorter than the outer; the larger claw of the anterior pair split before the apex.

This genus is closely allied to *Amblyterus*, but differs in having the mentum more regularly narrowed in front and not truncate, and only the larger claw of the anterior

tarsi is split, whereas the large claw to all the tarsi is split in *Amblyterus*. Lacordaire says that this claw is not "fissile" in the anterior pair, but this is evidently a mistake; he states, also, that the labrum is very prominent in the middle. I have only dissected one specimen, and in that it is not prominent at all in the sense in which the term is used with regard to the species of this family. I do not trace any membranous border to *Mesystæchus*, and it is so slight in *Amblyterus* that it is seldom visible.

Mesystæchus ciliatus, sp. n.

Oblongus, convexus, nitidus, flavo-piceus; fronte thoraceque nigro-æneo variegatis; scutello piceo, punctulato; elytris fortiter striato-punctatis, apice crebrius rugoso-punctatis, suturâ marginibusque piceis; antennis pedibusque piceis, femoribus flavo-piceis.

Long. $4\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Clypeus densely rugulose, with the fine reflexed margin pitchy-black. Head blackish, with a spot in front yellowish, thickly and rather strongly punctured, less so on the vertex. Thorax one-third broader than long, convex, pitchy-yellow, not very thickly but rather strongly punctured; the sides arcuate, a mesial line and an irregular patch on each side (all sub-confluent) bronzy-black. Elytra a trifle broader than the thorax, a little longer than broad, with two double lines of rather strong punctures on the dorsal region of each, and four lines on the sides; the broad interstices with strong punctures, which have a tendency to form irregular lines. The margins are beset with short stiff hairs. The under side is variegated with brownish-black, moderately pubescent.

Hab.—Moreton Bay (Diggles).

DIAPERINÆ.

ENNEBŒUS, gen. nov.

Labial palpi widely separated at their base, the apical joint rather large and acuminate at the apex. Internal lobe of the maxillæ unarmed, apical joint of palpi arcuate on the inner side. Mandibles bifid at the apex. Labrum moderately prominent. Eyes oblong-ovate when viewed laterally, nearly round when viewed from above, coarsely granular. Antennæ a trifle longer than head and thorax together, rather slender, 2nd joint a little shorter than the

1st, the 3rd joint elongate, the 4th to 6th diminishing in length, 7th a little longer than broad, 8th as broad as long, 9th and 10th forming distinct but not a large club. Thorax transverse, narrowed in front, lobed in the middle of the base. Elytra convex, at the base the same width as the thorax, arcuate at the sides; the epipleural fold gradually narrowing to the apex, a little concave at the extreme base, slightly convex posteriorly, not separated from the elytra by a sharp edge. Tarsi slender, moderately long, pubescent below, the basal joint of the posterior pair long, as long as the 2nd, 3rd and half the 4th taken together. Prosternum horizontal, parallel. Mesosternum sloping anteriorly.

This insect is regularly oval, convex and finely pubescent. It appears to be allied to *Platydema*, but the antennæ are more like those of *Heterophyllus*. I think it should be placed before this latter.

Ennebæus ovalis, sp. n.

Ovalis, convexis, piceo-niger, subtiliter pubescens et punctulatus; antennis pedibusque piceis.

Long. vix 2 lin.

Regularly oval, convex, very finely pubescent. Head, thorax and elytra very thickly and extremely finely punctured; the elytra not punctate-striate. Thorax at the base twice as broad as long, narrowed in front, the anterior angles very little prominent, blunt, the sides almost rectilinear, finely margined, the base gently lobed in the middle. Scutellum small and semicircular, only seen with great difficulty. Elytra at the base fitting close to the base of the thorax; the sides arcuate, continuous in outline with the sides of the thorax, broadest a little before the middle, finely margined, pitchy at the apex.

Hab.—Tasmania.

This insect has somewhat the form of *Rhizobius litura* among the *Coccinellidæ*, but the elytra are still more exactly adapted to the base of the thorax.

MORDELLIDÆ.

Tomoxia flavicans, sp. n.

Nigra, supra dense flavo-sericea; elytris apice nigris; corpore subtus plus minusve sericeo.

Long. 3 lin.

Head very broad. Antennæ rather short, the 5th to 10th joints broad, the 7th to 10th a little broader than long, narrowed at their base. The mesial lobe of the base of the thorax is rather broad and nearly straight. The elytra are moderately attenuated posteriorly, clothed with yellowish pubescence, with a transverse band across the middle, and the apex blackish. The band on the elytra ascends a little on the suture. The first four joints of the antennæ are slightly pitchy. The under side of the insect is clothed with yellowish pubescence, the sides of the metasternum and abdomen being dark, with a silky spot on the side of each segment.

Hab.—Clarence River, E. Australia.

Mordella aterrima, McLeay (Trans. Ent. Soc. N. S. Wales, ii. p. 309). "Length, 3 lines. Elongate, satiny black, with a white spot on the side of the basal segment of the abdomen."

I know of only one Australian species which agrees with this brief description, and that is a *Tomoxia*.*

Hab. Moreton Bay.

Mordella multiguttata, sp. n.

Atra, velutina; capite, pectore femoribusque flavo-griseo-pubescentibus; thorace guttis undecim (5 ad marginem anticam, 2 discoidalibus, et 4 basalibus), singulo elythro maculis septem (2 basalibus, 3 ante medium, 1 majore ad medium, altera ante apicem), abdomineque maculis plurimis flavo-tomentosis.

Long. 4—5¼ lin.

Closely resembles *M. leucosticta*, Germ., and of the same form and size. The thorax has eleven yellow spots, five on the anterior margin, of which the central one is cuneiform and the two on each side are joined together on the margin: there are two ovate spots on the disk, and four on the posterior margin, the two outer ones being much the larger. Each elytron has seven spots, one close to the scutellum, one close to it in the middle of the base, three small ones arranged in a triangle before the middle, a large spot in the middle close to the suture, and a large subapical one in the form of an oblique S. There are also two large yellow spots on

* *Mordella Mellissiana*, Woll., from St. Helena, is a *Mordellistena*.

each side of the abdominal segments, and one on each side of the base of the aculeus. The antennæ and palpi are pitchy at the base.

Hab.—Moreton Bay.

I think that there is no doubt that *M. abdominalis*, Blessig (1861), and *M. octomaculata*, McLeay (1872), are synonyms of *leucosticta*, Germ. (1848). *M. 14-maculata*, McLeay, is easily distinguished by the narrow transverse fascia across the disk of the thorax.

Mordella communis, sp. n.

Nigra; capite thoraceque flavo-griseo-sericeis hoc vittâ medianâ punctoque utrinque nigris; scutello flavo-griseo; singulo elytro margine basali angustissime guttisque septem griseo-sericeis; corpore subtus plus minusve griseo-sericeo.

Long. $2\frac{1}{3}$ lin.

The elytra have the extreme base narrowly bordered with yellowish-grey pubescence, from which are emitted three very short stripes (or elongate spots), one close to the suture, one in the middle of the base, and the third on the shoulder. A little way from the base there is a small round white spot, and about the middle are two irregular spots, the one nearer the suture, a little higher than the outer one; near the apex, and close to the suture, is a larger white spot. The grey pubescence on the under side forms a white stripe close to the margin of the elytra on the meso- and metasterna; there is also a spot on the middle and one at the side of the basal segment of the abdomen, and a smaller one on the side of the second and of the third segments. The anterior femora are obscure pitchy.

Hab.—N. W. Coast of Australia and Tasmania.

The Tasmanian specimens do not seem to differ from the type specimen, but there are two examples in the Museum Collection from Sydney, which appear relatively a trifle shorter and with less broad thorax; the markings are more tinged with yellow, relatively larger, and the inner one of the pair in the middle of the elytra is more distinctly V-shaped; these may prove to be a distinct species.

Mordella elegans, sp. n.

Fusco-nigra, latior; capite thoraceque aureo-sericeis, hoc vittâ medianâ maculâque utrinque nigris; scutello

aureo-sericeo; singulo elytro maculis quinque, unâ basali brevi juxta suturam, altera in medio basis, duabus fere ad medium, altera ante apicem majore aureo-sericeis; corpore subtus plus minusve aureo-sericeo; labro, antennarum basi, palpis, pedibusque anticis piceis.

Long. 2 lin.

Resembles *M. communis*, but is relatively shorter and more robust, and the spots on the elytra are much larger. The golden pubescence on the elytra forms a very narrow border along the base, an elongate spot on each side of the suture beneath the scutellum, an elongate spot in the middle of the base, and there is a very small spot above the shoulder; about the middle of each elytron there are two spots, the outer one round, the inner one elongate and oblique (nearly forming, with its fellow on the other elytron, a V-mark); there is also a large spot before the apex. The whole of the under side of the insect is clothed with yellow pubescence, except a spot on the side of the metasternum and the sides of the abdomen, which, however, has a spot on the side of each of the segments. The anterior legs, and the intermediate femora, the labrum, base of the antennæ and palpi are pitchy.

Hab.—S. Australia (Bakewell).

There is a specimen in the Museum Collection, also from S. Australia, which differs from the above in having the scutellar spot replaced by a fine sutural line, which joins the inner of the two spots at the middle of the elytra. This may be a mere variety of *elegans*.

Mordella trivialis, sp. n.

Elongata, nigra; capite thoraceque flavo-sericeis; elytris humeris maculâ lunatâ flavo-sericeâ, fasciâ medianâ tenui fortiter dentatâ, maculâque subapicali albidis; corpore subtus plus minusve griseo-sericeo; antennarum basi, palpis, pedibus anterioribus femoribusque intermediis piceis.

Long. 2½ lin.

This species much resembles *M. communis*, but is a little more elongate, and the markings on the elytra are different. Head and thorax uniformly clothed with yellow pubescence. Elytra with a short lunate spot on the shoulder; there is a trace of white on the suture below the scutellum; there is a very narrow white fascia a little before the middle of the elytra; it commences on the

margin, some way from the shoulder, is directed obliquely downwards, then turns at an acute angle obliquely upwards (not to a level with the starting point), and then turns at an acute angle downwards, and joins the suture. The aculeus is very long.

Hab.—S. Australia (Bakewell).

Mordella ornata, sp. n.

Nigra, aureo-sericea; thorace medio paulo infuscato; elytris lateribus apiceque fusco-nigris, fasciâ ante apicem aureo-sericeâ.

Long. $2\frac{1}{4}$ lin.

Black, but almost entirely clothed above and below with golden pubescence. The thorax has the disk rather darker. Elytra with the margins and apical third brownish-black, with a fascia composed of four united spots (two on each elytron) at a little distance from the apex, the outer spots the smaller. The abdomen has the usual sub-lateral dark spots.

Hab.—N. W. Coast of Australia.

This species is a moderately robust one, not very much attenuated posteriorly. The head is not very broad and is moderately narrowed in front; the antennæ are rather slender and have the 5th to 10th joints about as long as broad. There is the appearance of a small dusky spot within the shoulder, and a dusky stripe parallel with the suture, on one of the examples, but are wanting in the second.

Note.—There is in the Museum Collection a single specimen closely resembling the above, but probably a distinct species. The thorax is partially clothed with golden pubescence, with a broad sutural stripe and a spot on each side obscure fuscous, all ill-defined. The elytra are fuscous-black, with a fine sutural line and an oblique stripe extending from the shoulder to about the middle of the elytron golden. Length 2 lin.

Mordella bella, sp. n.

Fusco-nigra, angusta; capite thoraceque aureo-sericeis; elytris sub-purpurascensibus, singulis maculâ juxta basin, suturæ parte basali, fasciisque duabus angustis (unâ ante medium dentatâ, alterâ ante apicem), aureo-sericeis; antennis, palpis, pedibus anterioribus, femoribusque intermediis pallide piceis.

Long. $1\frac{1}{4}$ lin.

The antennæ are pale, but dusky at the apex. There are no distinct markings on the thorax. The elytra have a purple gloss; on each there are the following golden markings: an elongate spot on the suture at the scutellum, a triangular spot in the middle of the base (extending a little over the shoulder), a narrow fascia just before the middle, commencing on the margin, is directed obliquely backwards for a short distance, and then turns obliquely at a right angle forwards to a level with the starting point, and then turns again backwards at an acute angle and joins the suture; there are also two lunate spots at some distance from the apex, which, with the corresponding pair on the other elytron, form an interrupted fascia.

Hab.—S. Australia (Bakewell).

This species much resembles *M. elegans*, but is much smaller and narrower, and has two spots at the apex of each elytron, instead of one, &c.

There is a specimen in the Museum which closely resembles this species, but has the spot in the middle of the base of the elytra more elongate; the spot below the scutellum divides posteriorly, and the mesial band appears more strongly zig-zag; the thorax also is obscurely marked with fuscous, and the anterior legs are less pale. This may be a mere variety. It measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

There are also two examples which resemble the above, but which are black, with the suture of the elytra only golden-pubescent; the base of the antennæ, the palpi and the anterior legs are pitchy. Long. $2\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

These are probably a distinct species, but the examples being in bad condition I do not venture to describe them.

Mordella ruficollis, sp. n.

Nigra; capite thoraceque flavo-rufis; elytris basi angustissime, maculâ parvâ juxta basin, suturâ usque ad medium, fasciâ medianâ angustâ litteram W formanti, maculâque ante apicem griseo-albo-sericeis; antennarum articulo basali, palpis, femoribusque anticis rufo-flavis; corpore subtus pedibusque plus minusve griseo-sericeis.

Long. $1\frac{3}{4}$ lin.

Head and thorax pale red, with yellow silky pubescence. Antennæ rather long, the 4th to 10th joints distinctly longer than broad. Scutellum silvery. Elytra black, with the following silvery-white markings; the base narrowly bordered with white, with an elongate spot in

the middle of the base of each elytron joined to the basal border; suture white as far as the middle, where there is a narrow fascia in the shape of a well-marked W; near the apex there is a second fascia composed of two lunate marks, one on each elytron. The whole of the under side and the legs are more or less clothed with whitish-grey pubescence, which is rather more white below the shoulders and on the sides of the abdominal segments.

Hab.—Tasmania (Atkinson).

Mordella limbata, sp. n.

Nigra, vix purpurascens, supra aureo-sericea; thorace lineâ medianâ punctoque utrinque nigris; elytris marginibus, apice, punctoque reniformi utrinque ante apicem nigris; corpore subtus femoribusque griseo-aureo-sericeis.

Long. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Black, clothed above with golden pubescence, leaving on the thorax a complete mesial line, and a round spot on each side of the disk black. The elytra are clothed with golden pubescence, the margins and apex black, and an elongate-oval black spot cut out of the side of the golden pubescence and confluent with the black of the margin. The palpi and the anterior femora are obscure pitchy.

Hab.—Sydney (Salting).

Mordella humeralis, sp. n.

Nigra; capite thoraceque flavo-sericeis, hoc vittâ medianâ latâ maculâque magnâ utrinque nigris; elytris sub-purpurascens, vittâ humerali obliquâ flavo-piceâ, aureo-sericeâ, post medium guttis quatuor (2—2) transversim positâs albidis.

Long. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

The dark markings on the thorax are not so well defined as in some of the preceding species. The elytra have on the shoulder an oblique slightly curved yellow stripe, extending from the humeral angle towards the suture to a little before the middle of the elytra, where it then turns upwards and joins the suture; this stripe is covered with golden pubescence. At some distance from the apex of each elytron there are two golden silky spots, one on the margin, the other between it and the suture, a little directed obliquely upwards. The under side and the posterior femora and tibiæ are more or less clothed with

yellow pubescence; the abdomen has a spot on the side of the first and second segments, the margins of the third and fourth, and the entire fifth segment clothed with purple pubescence. The aculeus is rather short.

Hab.—Australia.

Mordella obliqua, sp. n.

Fusco-nigra, griseo-flavo-pubescentis; elytris fusco-nigris, plagâ basali triangulari griseo-flavo-pubescenti.

Long. $2\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Rather an elongate, narrow species. Thorax convex and rather less broad than any of the above described. Elytra rather long, clothed with yellowish pubescence, with the sides pitchy-black. A line drawn from below the shoulder to the suture a little way from the apex would be the line of demarcation between the yellow pubescence and the dark margins. The abdomen is fuscous-black, with the usual silky spots on the sides of the first, second and third segments. The base of the antennæ and the anterior femora are slightly pitchy.

Hab.—S. Australia (Bakewell).

This species has somewhat the appearance of an *Anaspis*.

CERAMBYCIDÆ.

Zoëdia elegans, sp. n.?

Nigra, griseo-pubescentis; thorace lateribus acute tuberculato; antennis, femorum basi, tibiis tarsisque rufis; elytris maculâ discoidali cuneiformi piceâ, lineâ albâ marginatâ et nigro-circumdatâ.

Long. $3\frac{3}{4}$ lin.

Whether or not I am justified in naming the specimen from which this diagnosis is taken must be a matter of opinion. It has been recently received from Tasmania, but I am uncertain whether or not it may be a variety of *Clytus v-album*, Boisd.

The type of *Z. triangularis* from Melbourne is now in the British Museum, I can, therefore, say for certain that it differs from that not only in having the head and thorax black, but in having the head more hollowed between the antennæ and without any distinct longitudinal channel, the sculpture is altogether a little finer, especially on the head and thorax, and the tubercle on the side of the

thorax is more acute and the two small tubercles on the disk are more distinct. The spot on the disk of the elytra is pale ferruginous, not triangular; it is bordered above by a fine white line, which, commencing on the margin, approaches the suture slightly obliquely until it nearly reaches it, when it turns somewhat suddenly upwards and joins the suture some little way below the scutellum; the region around the spot is velvety black as in the other species. This spot on the elytra agrees more with the figure of *Z. divisa*, Pascoe (Journ. Ent. I. p. 362, t. xvii. f. 1), but I think that the Tasmanian example cannot be referred to that species, not only on account of the difference of coloration but the phrases "head canaliculate between the antennæ" and "prothorax swelling out at the middle into an *obtuse* knob" do not well accord with it.*

Lastly, there is the doubtful "*Clytus v-album*," Boisd. (Voy. d. l'Astr. p. 485, t. ix. f. 23), which appears (and I think correctly) as a *Zoëdia* in the Munich Catalogue. The figure of this insect is so very bad that it is impossible to say what it is, and, consequently, it might be intended for a colour variety of the Tasmanian specimen in question, and the description does not help one at all; for example, the femora are said to be fuscous with the base paler, and the first joint of the antennæ is "tout-à-fait de la couleur des cuisses;" "corselet petit, garni de petits tubercules pointus." The thorax having only the lateral tubercle and two very small ones on the disk in the *Zoëdia* known to me.

* Since the above was in print, Mr. Pascoe has kindly brought me his type specimen for comparison, and it proves to be distinct from *elegans*, in which the lateral tubercle of the thorax is distinctly more acute than in *divisa*, &c.